

tion belongs to them, not only that embraced within the said treaty, but also that covered by the executive orders. Should the reservation be enlarged, as proposed, they would come to believe that the lands were their own; that they were entitled to the use of the same for any purposes whatever, whether for grazing or agriculture, could they be made available for the latter purpose by a system of irrigation, and in view of the decision of the Supreme Court, above cited, it is doubtful whether the lands could be restored to the public domain without compensating the Indians therefor.

In view of all the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, I am constrained to the opinion that it would be unwise to extend the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation as indicated by the inspector, and have the honor to recommend that they be not so extended.

It is more desirable to further develop the system of irrigation and water supply inaugurated upon the present Navajo Reservation than to enlarge the same by adding thereto the arid tract of country west of the Navajo and Moqui reservations.

Upon receipt of Superintendent Butler's report as to the necessity and practicability of continuing the work of irrigation upon the reservation, the matter will be submitted to you, and an estimate made of the amount required to be appropriated by Congress for such work.

With these remarks I respectfully submit the matter for your consideration and final determination.

The papers in the case are herewith inclosed, and a copy of this report transmitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, August 29, 1899.

SIR: After further consideration of the report of United States Indian Inspector McLaughlin relative to the extension of the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, in connection with your report of the 15th ultimo, I am satisfied, taking into consideration the interests of both the Indians and the whites, that the reservation should be enlarged, as recommended by the inspector, provided Congress will appropriate the necessary moneys to purchase the improvements of the settlers living within the tract sought to be added to the reservation. I therefore have to request that copies of Inspector McLaughlin's report and accompanying papers be prepared, together with an estimate of appropriation necessary for the purpose named, for transmission by the Department to Congress.

If the Congress shall appropriate the moneys necessary to pay the settlers, the reservation can then be enlarged by Executive order, as recommended by the inspector.

The inclosures to your letter are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK, *Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 23, 1899.

SIR: On June 24, 1899, you advised this office that Inspector James McLaughlin was instructed on March 14, 1899, by the Department to proceed to the Navajo Agency, Ariz., make an investigation of the country lying west of the Moqui Reservation, and report to the Department all necessary information to consider the recommendations which had previously been made by himself and Maj. Constant Williams, then acting Indian agent of the Navajo Agency, to enlarge the Navajo Reservation by extending the lines in certain directions, and that the inspector had lately performed this service.

You transmitted with your said letter his report, dated June 13, 1899, and all the accompanying papers to this office for its consideration and report upon the same.

The inspector recommended that the Navajo Reservation be enlarged by extending the line from the southwest corner of the Moqui Reservation due west to the Little Colorado River; thence down that stream to the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve; thence north on the line of that reserve to the northeast corner thereof; thence west